

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11
HA-05 IO-13 /082 W
-----102561 171028Z /12
R 161501Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8980
INFO AMCONSUL KADUNA

C O N F I D E N T I A L LAGOS 7478

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PGOV PDEV NI
SUBJECT: THE CA: ACCORDING TO UNONGO, OBASANJO SAYS IT'S
ALL OVER

REF: A) LAGOS 7305 B) LAGOS 7232

1. IN A JUNE 16 MEETING WITH EMBASSY OFFICERS, PAUL UNONGO, A LEADER OF THE CLUB 19 GROUP IN THE CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY (CA), TOLD US THAT HEAD OF STATE OBASANJO MET THIS WEEK WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF THE NORTHERN GROUP WHICH WISHES HAVE THE CA RECONVENED. ACCORDING TO UNONGO, OBASANJO TOLD THEM TTHAT THE CA WOULD NOT BE RECALLED; HOWEVER, SOME CEREMONIAL FUNCTION WOULD BE ARRANGED BEFORE THE CA IS DISSOLVED: "I WILL GIVE YOU A DINNER OR SOMETHING." AS FOR THEIR CONCERNS ON SHARIA AND NEW STATE CREATION, OBASANJO REPORTEDLY TOLD THEM "TO CARRY IT ON INTO THE POLITICAL PROCESS."

2. IN THE WEEK BEFORE THE CA'S ADJOURNMENT, ACCORDING TO UNONGO, THE NORTHERNERS HAD BEEN WORKING ON AN ARRANGEMENT TO REOPEN THE SHARIA ISSUE IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE CREATION OF SEVERAL NEW STATES AND HAD APPROACHED SEVERAL CLUB 19 MCAS TO ATTEMPT TO ARRANGE THEIR
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COOPERATION. IN THAT REGARD, MCA ALHAJI KAM SALEM (BORNO) APPROACHED UNONGO WITH AN AMENDMENT WHICH WOULD CREATE A SHARIA "DIVISION" OF THE FEDERAL COURT OF APPEAL AND ASKED HIM TO BRING IT UP AT A MEETING OF CLUB 19 MCAS. UNONGO DID SO AND CLUB 19 REACTED VERY NEGATIVELY AND CAME UP WITH A DRAFT COUNTER AMENDMENT TO REMOVE ALL MENTION OF SHARIA FROM THE CONSTITUTION. CHAIRMAN UDOMA

AND THE FMG THEN REALIZED THAT THEY HAD THE MAKINGS OF A
DISASTER ON THEIR HANDS.

3. UNONGO FOUND UDOMA'S ADJOURNMENT OF THE CA TO BE
PERFECTLY DEFENSIBLE (HE TERMED IT "FANTASTIC"
CONSIDERING THE FACT THAT NO FORMAL AMENDMENTS WERE LEFT
TO BE DEALT WITH AND THERE WAS NOTHING LEFT REALLY FOR
THE CA TO DO.
WYMAN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION, POLITICAL SITUATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 16 jun 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978LAGOS07478
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780253-1084
Format: TEL
From: LAGOS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780651/aaaabrwb.tel
Line Count: 71
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 2ed75087-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 LAGOS 7305, 78 LAGOS 7232
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 03 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2324463
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: THE CA: ACCORDING TO UNONGO, OBASANJO SAYS IT'S ALL OVER
TAGS: PGOV, PDEV, NI
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/2ed75087-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014